IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of:

Hidesato MATSUOKA, et al.

Serial No. Unassigned   Group Art Unit: Unassigned

Confirmation No. Unassigned

Filed: August 3, 2001   Examiner: Unassigned

For: DOCUMENT ANONYMITY SETTING DEVICE, METHOD AND COMPUTER
       READABLE RECORDING MEDIUM RECORDING ANONYMITY SETTING PROGRAM

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Before examination of the above-identified application, please amend the application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please AMEND the pending claims in accordance with the following:

6. The device according to claim 4, wherein the specificity calculating unit includes a reference specificity database registering specificity data having a set of an expression specifying a person, a type of a person name or a modification expression and a specificity which are created based on an existing document.

7. The device according to claim 4, wherein the specificity calculating unit includes a database creating means extracting a person name and a modification expression for each document from an existing document of a document database to calculate a specificity and for creating a reference specificity database registering specificity data having a set of an expression specifying a person, a type of a person name or a modification expression and a specificity.

19. The method according to claim 17, wherein the specificity calculating step takes a weight average of a specificity obtained by a calculation of an expression which specify a person extracted from the input document with a specificity registered in a reference specificity database registering specificity data having a set of an expression specifying a person created based on an existing document, a type of a person name or a modification expression and a specificity, and normalizes the weight average.

20. The method according to claim 17, wherein the specificity calculating step includes a database creating step of extracting a person name and a modification expression for each document from an existing document of a document database to calculate a specificity and creating the reference specificity database registering specificity data having a set of an expression specifying a person, a type of a person name or a modification expression and a specificity.

REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment is submitted to improve the form of the specification as originally-filed and to delete multiple dependent claims.

It is respectfully requested that this Preliminary Amendment be entered in the above-referenced application.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Preliminary Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: August 3, 2001

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please AMEND the following claims:

6. The device according to claim 4[or 5], wherein the specificity calculating unit includes a reference specificity database registering specificity data having a set of an expression specifying a person, a type of a person name or a modification expression and a specificity which are created based on an existing document.

7. The device according to claim 4[or 5], wherein the specificity calculating unit includes a database creating means extracting a person name and a modification expression for each document from an existing document of a document database to calculate a specificity and for creating a reference specificity database registering specificity data having a set of an expression specifying a person, a type of a person name or a modification expression and a specificity.

19. The method according to claim 17[or 18], wherein the specificity calculating step takes a weight average of a specificity obtained by a calculation of an expression which specify a person extracted from the input document with a specificity registered in a reference specificity database registering specificity data having a set of an expression specifying a person created based on an existing document, a type of a person name or a modification expression and a specificity, and normalizes the weight average.

20. The method according to claim 17[or 18], wherein the specificity calculating step includes a database creating step of extracting a person name and a modification expression for each document from an existing document of a document database to calculate a specificity and creating the reference specificity database registering specificity data having a set of an expression specifying a person, a type of a person name or a modification expression and a specificity.